



- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY-

ORAL STATEMENT

Item 3: Inter-active Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders

UN Human Rights Council
55th session
26 February – 5 April 2024

Mr. President, Excellencies,

My name is Niraphorn, and I am a 22-year-old human rights defender. I deliver this statement in consultation with other child and youth defenders in the room today.

Madam Rapporteur,

We are excited to see your report to the Council as a first of its kind in recognizing child and young human rights defenders at the forefront of many social justice movements. But our work comes at a cost.

In the **United Kingdom**, the 'Prevent' programme has a chilling effect on the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly for child and young human rights defenders, especially Muslim and Neurodiverse children.¹

In **Ecuador**, only two weeks ago a child climate defender was intimidated in her home due to her activism against routine gas flaring.²

In **Thailand where I am from**, more than 1600 people, including myself and almost 300 children, have been criminally charged for exercising freedom of expression in both offline and online protests.³ Many have been subject to targeted digital surveillance and the authorities have failed to adequately investigate complaints.⁴ Young women and LGBTI defenders like me suffered violations of our right to privacy. Many of us fear having our private data breached through arbitrary surveillance and it being used to discredit our peaceful activism.

Madam Rapporteur,

In your report you highlight the important need to strengthen digital protection and security with regards to online human rights violations. What else should this Council do to create a digitally secure society where child and young human rights defenders feel empowered and safe to claim their rights?

Let us, as young people and the new generation, collaborate with other generations to design a digitally safe, inclusive, and respectful world for everyone.

Thank you.

*An abridged version of this statement was delivered by Niraphorn, a 22-year-old human rights defender, to the inter-active dialogue with the UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders at the 55th session of the UN Human Rights Council.

¹ Amnesty International UK, 'This Is the Thought Police' The Prevent Duty and Its Chilling Effect on Human Rights, November 2023, (Index: EUR 45/7368/2023), https://www.amnesty.org.uk/files/2023-11/Amnesty%20UK%20Prevent%20report%20%281%29.pdf?VersionId=.hjlwRZuHiGd1_IECXroFwg25iyBtwur p. 38

² Amnesty International, Ecuador: Child Climate Justice activist intimidated in her home (Index: AMR 28/7775/2024), 4 March 2024: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr28/7775/2024/en/>

³ Amnesty International, Thailand: "We are reclaiming our future": Children's right to peaceful assembly in Thailand, (Index: ASA 39/6336/2023), 8 February 2023 <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa39/6336/2023/en/>

⁴ Amnesty International, Thailand: Pegasus spyware found on phones of dissidents involved in mass protests, 18 July 2022 <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/07/pegasus-thailand-activists-protests/>